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Dialogue on the special theme for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council

Draft resolution *

Contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to the post-2015 development agenda in order to promote sustainable urban development and human settlements

The Governing Council,

Recalling General Assembly Resolution A/69/226 on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat),

Reaffirming the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled 'The Future We Want', in which Heads of State and Government recognize that, if well planned and developed including through integrated planning and management approaches, cities can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies; and commit to working towards improving the quality of human settlements, including the living and working conditions of both urban and rural dwellers in the context of poverty eradication so that all people have access to basic services, housing and mobility,

Recalling resolution 17/10 of 14 May 1999 of the Commission on Human Settlements, which requested that urban-rural interdependence be taken into consideration in the execution of the work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) given the strong synergy between urban and rural areas,

Recalling also resolution 19/10 of 9 May 2003 which requested the Executive Director to raise awareness regarding the direct relationship between positive urban-rural development and sustainable urbanization and to help develop the capacity of central Governments and local authorities in that area, particularly in developing countries,

Recalling further resolution 24/10 of 19 April 2013 which requested the Executive Director, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, to ensure that the United Nations Human Settlements Programme contributes to the development and implementation of the post-2015 development agenda in order to promote sustainable urbanization,

Recalling resolution 24/5 of 19 April 2013 which requested the Executive Director in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to develop a general guiding framework for the development, where appropriate, of national urban policies, based on international good experiences, to further support member States when developing and improving their urban policies,

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Recalling also resolution 24/3 of 19 April 2013 which encouraged the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in collaboration with member States and Habitat Agenda partners to elaborate a set of agreed universal principles for urban and territorial planning at the city level, in particular regarding planned city extensions, at the regional and the national level, with a particular focus on national urban policies,

Recognizing the importance of environmentally sound, safe and affordable transportation as a means to improve social equity, health, resilience of cities, urban-rural linkages and productivity of rural areas,

Recalling General Assembly 68/309, in which the General Assembly welcomed the Report of the Open Working Group on the SDGs and decided that it shall be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the Post-2015 Development agenda, including inter alia Goal 11 to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable,

Recognizing that the Report of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals addresses urban-rural linkages in the context of its proposed goal 11 and its proposed targets with a view to supporting positive, economic, social, and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas, by strengthening national and regional development planning; Noting the report of the Executive Director on the special theme for the twenty-fifth session of the Governing Council: "UN-Habitat's Contribution to the Post-2015 Development Agenda in Order to Promote Sustainable Urban Development and Human Settlements, sub-theme 1 on enhancing urban-rural linkages across the continuum of human settlements to harness the transformative power of urbanization for sustainable development and sub-theme 2 on UN-Habitat's Role in the Post-2015 Development Agenda",

Recognizing also the positive transformative potential of urbanization and strengthened urban-rural linkages in achieving sustainable development, as well as recognizing the way they connect a broad range of themes, sectors and actors in a territory, inter alia, by contributing to the eradication of poverty, social inclusion, inclusive economic growth, enhancing access to basic urban services, supporting inclusive housing, enhancing job opportunities, productivity, creating and sharing benefits, and creating a safe and healthy living environment, also in the context of gender equality, youth and people in vulnerable situations,

1. *Encourages* member States to consider the important role that sustainable urbanization and human settlements can play as a key driver of sustainable development in their national and sub-national development plans, as appropriate;

2. *Requests* the Executive Director to continue supporting member States in the development and implementation of their urban policies to manage the continuum of human settlements;

3. *Also requests* the Executive Director to continue to promote political commitment to sustainable development, while encouraging planned, productive and integrated city growth, to ensure sustainable mobility, public spaces including green spaces, urban regeneration and infills in order to contain urban sprawl, promoting access to affordable, reliable and sustainable modern energy services and energy efficiency, reduced environmental impacts of rural urban convergences and mitigate and adapt to climate change, reducing air pollution while also promoting urban health and enhancing national and local authorities capacity to provide basic services;

4. *Invites* Governments to promote the reduction of disparity along the rural-urban continuum through, inter alia, inclusive public and private investments in infrastructure and services across the rural service centres as well as of small intermediate and secondary towns to strengthen linkages as appropriate, and promote sustainable and balanced integration of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development;

5. *Also invites* Governments to support strengthening the capacity of rural service centres, and small, intermediate and secondary towns to attract populations, increase investments, create jobs and reduce reliance on primate cities, as a strategy to promote decentralized growth;

6. *Encourages* the Executive Director to continue promoting the role of sustainable urbanization and human settlements as a transformative force for achieving and advancing sustainable development in support of the future post-2015 development agenda;

7. *Requests* the Executive Director, consistent with existing mandates, to continue mainstreaming of urbanization and human settlement issues in the post-2015 development agenda and to contribute as appropriate to the work to be undertaken on the indicators by inter alia providing expertise as a member of the UN Task team to the UN Statistical Commission;

8. *Encourages* member States to ensure policy coherence in the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda by promoting active participation of relevant stakeholders, including local authorities;

9. *Requests* the Executive Director to work with member States to promote policy coherence within UN-Habitat's mandate in the implementation of the relevant parts of the post-2015 development agenda by promoting active participation of relevant stakeholders, including local authorities;

10. *Also requests* the Executive Director to develop tools and disseminate good practices to promote urban rural linkages through investments in market towns and in the intermediate cities through integrated regional and territorial planning to strengthen development corridors;

11. *Further requests* the Executive Director to continue working closely with other intergovernmental organizations and stakeholders to strengthen urban-rural linkages focusing on knowledge exchange, policy dialogue and capacity development;

12. *Invites* member States, with the assistance of UN-Habitat, as requested and in line with its work programme and budget to initiate or enhance programmes and projects at national or sub-national level to strengthen the capacity of rural service centres, small and intermediate towns to improve the access of rural and peri-urban inhabitants to sustainable urban basic services, including water, sanitation, transportation and energy, as well as access to social and economic services such as health, education, banking, retail and market services;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director, consistent with the approved work programme and budget, to support member States to enhance the capacity of national, subnational and local authorities to plan and manage sustainable urbanization in order to address existing and emerging challenges including among others a response to climate change across the continuum of human settlements;

14. *Encourages* member States and partners to provide appropriate support for the future work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the implementation of the Strategic Plan and the outcomes of the post-2015 development agenda;

15. *Requests* the Executive Director to submit to the Governing Council at its twenty-sixth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.